

# County Trends



## San Juan

June 2003

### A Local Economic Perspective

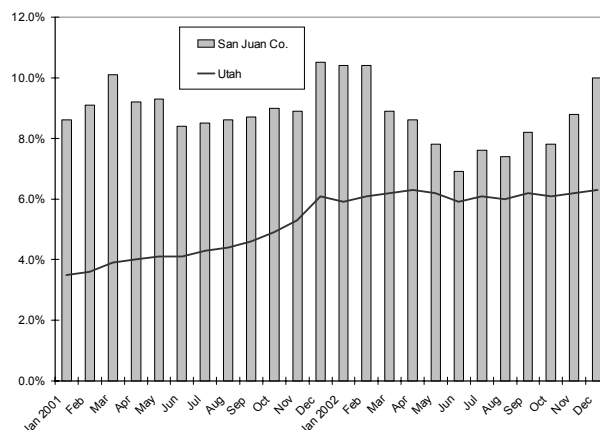
#### Jobs Show Postive Growth in 2002

San Juan County's economy continued to enjoy year-over job gains during the third and fourth quarters of 2002. Growth remained concentrated in recreation and professional and business services-related industries. Construction also improved. Not surprising with more jobs the unemployment rate declined. Currently, the unemployment rate for April 2003 was 8.8 percent, a drop from the 9.5 percent posted in April 2002.

#### Employment Expands

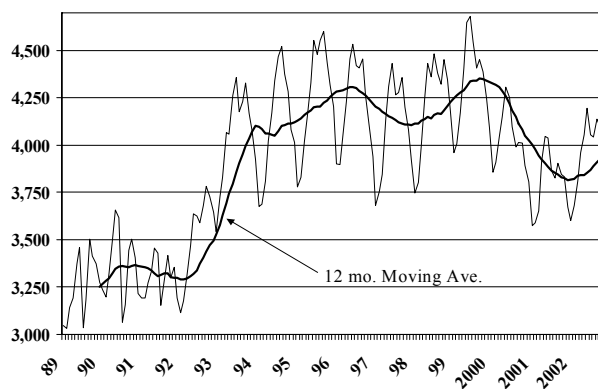
San Juan County's year-over nonfarm employment showed robust growth during the third and fourth quarters of 2002. Nonfarm jobs rose a healthy 5.5 percent in the third quarter followed by a 4.9 percent jump in the fourth quarter. Among goods-producing sectors, construction jobs increased for heavy and special trade workers. Mining jobs slipped somewhat as exploration and development of oil and gas reserves were curtailed. One positive development is job gains in non-oil and gas mining jobs. Likewise, manufacturing jobs declined slightly as losses for wood products were nearly offset by gains in food manufacturing.

#### Seasonally Adjusted San Juan County Unemployment Rates



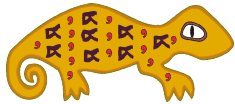
Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.

#### Monthly Nonfarm Employment in San Juan County, 1989-2002

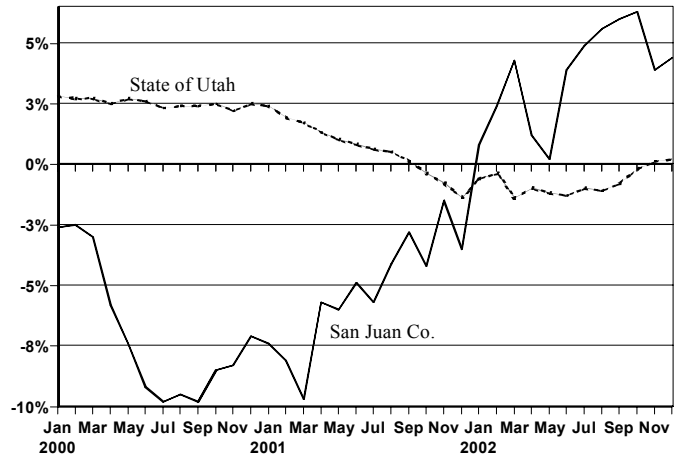


Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.





## Year-Over Change in San Juan County Employment



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.

# To the Point

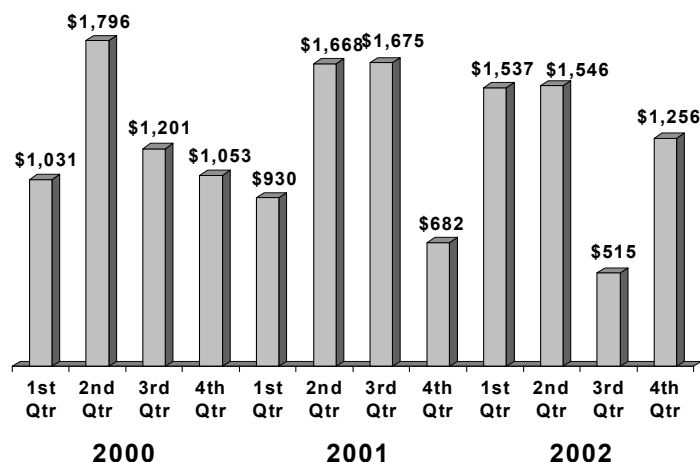
**2002 was a good year for job growth in San Juan County; led by strong growth in the recreation and construction industries. Local government, including Navajo Tribal activities, also added jobs. While 2002 showed solid gains, the challenges faced by the travel industry will slow the rate of growth in 2003.**

The services-production industries lead the way in employment growth in San Juan County. Year-over data for the last half of 2002 show that jobs were added in recreation, lodging, professional and business services, and government. The most improvement occurred in recreation related jobs, particularly around Lake Powell and for outfitters. Lodging also showed significant growth. All branches of government expanded jobs, but the bulk of the growth was in local government. Local administration, health care and public safety accounted for the growth. Federal jobs increased slightly. A concern was the loss of retail trade jobs in food stores and health stores that offset gains in general merchandise stores.

### ***Construction Falters***

Year-over construction activity, as measured by permit authorizations, fell 25 percent in total valuation during the last six months of 2002. Decreased activity for single-family and manufactured homes drove down residential units by 24 percent. Residential values also

## San Juan County Total Construction Permit Valuation



(Thousands of dollars)

Source: Utah Bureau of Economic & Business Research.



declined by 19 percent. New nonresidential valuations fell 30 percent while valuations for all renovation work also dropped

### Sales Slump

Year-over gross taxable sales faltered in the third quarter (-5.6%) and the fourth quarter (-7.3%) of 2002. Mining, manufacturing, and communications sales fell. Construction sales showed solid gains. Retail trade sales shot up at general merchandise stores. Services sales tumbled for recreation, repairs, lodging and business services.

### Outlook for 2003

San Juan County's outlook hinges on how quickly the travel industry can recover. Unfortunately, the recovery is projected to be slow. Expect slower rates of growth until this industry recovers and when more of the lingering effects of the persistent recession have lapsed.

Austin Sargent, Regional Economist  
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## Quick Facts

### April 2003

#### Unemployment Rate

San Juan County	8.8%
Utah	5.3%
U.S.	6.0%

### Dec. 2002 Change from Previous Year

#### Job Growth

San Juan County	4.4%
Utah	0.2%
U.S.	-0.2%

### 4th Qtr 2002 Change from Previous Year

#### Construction Values

San Juan County	115.7%
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#### Sales

San Juan County	-7.3%
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Source: Utah Dept of Workforce Services,  
Bureau of Labor Statistics,  
Utah Tax Commission,  
Bureau of Econ & Business Research.

**For more economic information about San Juan County see:**  
**<http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/Regions/County.asp>**

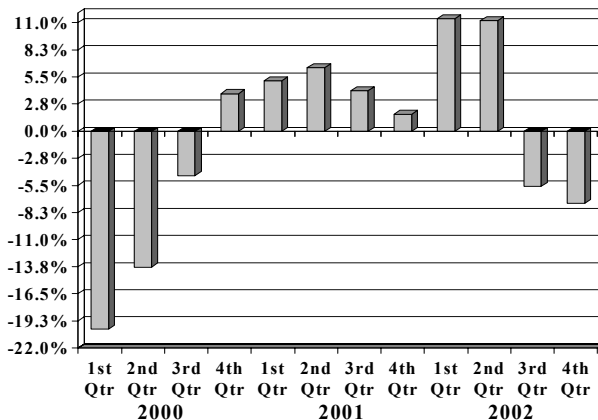
# State of Utah

## Utah Department of Workforce Services

140 East 300 South  
PO Box 45249  
Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0249

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### Year-Over Change in Duchesne County Gross Taxable Sales



Source: Utah Tax Commission.

*The mission of the Utah Department of Workforce Services is to provide quality, accessible, and comprehensive employment-related and supportive services responsive to the needs of employers, job seekers, and the community.*



03-13ESJ-0603

#### Equal Opportunity Employment Program

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Call (801) 526-9240. Individuals with speech and/or hearing impairments may call the state relay at 1-800-346-4128

## What's Up? 4

- The San Juan County Commission agreed to match \$100,000 in funds with \$100,000 in Community Impact Board funds to remodel the Blanding Clinic.
- The Community Impact Board awarded \$100,000 to the College of Eastern Utah/ Utah State University to renovate an old hospital building in Monument Valley.
- The Utah Navajo Revitalization Fund Board received \$846,141 to improve housing on the Navajo Reservation.

**For more economic events, see:**

<http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/Regions/eastern/sanjuan/sanjuaneepdf>

